



**CAPT W. A. KEARNS III**  
**U.S. NAVY**

Captain Kearns received his commission through the Naval ROTC program upon graduation from the University of Colorado. He is also a graduate of Harvard University where he earned a master's degree in public administration.

Captain Kearns commanded USS RUSSELL (DDG 59) based in Pearl Harbor from March 2003 to August 2004. Previous sea duty assignments include Executive Officer, USS RAMAGE (DDG 61); Commissioning Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer, USS VICKSBURG (CG 69); Fire Control Officer, USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47); and Auxiliaries Officer, USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS (CG 27).

Assignments ashore include Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Naval Operations Branch Chief, U.S. Pacific Command; Deputy Special Assistant for Flag Officer Management and Distribution at the Bureau of Naval Personnel; Aide to the Director, Surface Warfare (N86) in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; Surface Department Head Detailer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel (PERS-41); and instructor at Surface Warfare Officers School Command.

His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards). He was awarded the Vice Admiral Bulkeley Leadership Award upon graduation from command training in 2002.